

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been amended. Claims 1-4 and claims 7-8 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-4 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,844,845 (Whiteside) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,165 (Jones) and U.S. Patent No. 5,175,873 (Goldenberg).

Amended independent claim 1 recites in part the following:

the front surface panel includes a rear end face at the step near the corner...

a small boss positioned on the rear end face of the front surface panel near the corner...

(emphasis added; independent claims 2 and 3 contain similar limitations). According to the invention of claim 1, the front surface panel includes a rear end face which is at a step between the front surface panel and a main body and, further, the rear end face is near a corner at which there exists a sharp edge. (See specification, for example, FIGs. 1B and 6). Advantageously, a small boss is positioned "on the rear end face of the front surface panel" near the corner, according to claim 1, to allow a force from contact of the user's hand or finger at the sharp edge to be dispersed to the sharp edge and the small boss.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Whiteside, Jones and Goldenberg applied by the Examiner does not appear to disclose the above features of claim 1.

The applied portions of Whiteside appear to disclose bumps or protrusions 178 in a recessed or depressed region 177 that is a so-called gripping region 176 of a housing. (See Col. 13, ln. 31-39 and Fig. 8). Nowhere does Whiteside appear to disclose or suggest that the housing has a sharp edge formed at a corner by

a step which is between the recessed region 177 and an exterior surface of the housing and, furthermore, locating a small protrusion (boss) "on" an end face which is "at the step," and where the boss is located on the end face near the corner.

Jones and Goldenberg do not cure the deficiencies of Whiteside regarding the requirements of claim 1, as described above. Although the applied portions of Jones and Goldenberg appear to disclose protrusions on a surface, neither Jones nor Goldenberg disclose or suggest positioning a protrusion (small boss) on a rear end face which is at a step between a front surface panel and a main body, and where the rear end face is near a corner at which there is a sharp edge, as required by claim 1.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would not have had a reason to modify Whiteside, which describes using protrusions "to assist a user in grasping [a housing] without slippage" (see Whiteside, Col. 13, ln. 45-48), based on the teachings of Jones and Goldberg, such that a protrusion (small boss) is provided on a (rear) end face at a step near a corner at which a sharp edge is formed, as required by claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Whiteside, Jones and Goldenberg, for at least the reasons set forth above.

For reasons similar or somewhat similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 2 and 3, which include limitations corresponding to those discussed above for claim 1, are patentable over the combination of Whiteside, Jones and Goldenberg.

Further, claims 4 and 7-8, which depend from independent claims 1, 2 or 3, also are patentable over the applied combination of Whiteside, Jones and Goldenberg for the same

reasons as discussed above for claim 1 and because the additional restrictions they add.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional rejections and/or objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Davy E. Zonbraich

Registration No.: 37,267

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicants